United Nations E/CN.6/2007/L.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
2 March 2007

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-first session
26 February-9 March 2007
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Republic of Korea and the United States of America: draft resolution

Elimination of harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments,

Recalling also that the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] recognize that son preference, combined with the increasing use of technologies to determine foetal sex, is resulting in the abortion of female foetuses in a number of countries, and call for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful practices, such as prenatal sex selection and female infanticide,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/141 of 16 December 2005 and all relevant resolutions, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recognizing also that son preference is rooted in gender inequality which may be closely linked to social, economic and political causes and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the empowerment of women, especially girls, is critical to eradicate the harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide,

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

07-25514 (E) 020307

Emphasizing that manifestations of son preference that result in prenatal sex selection and female infanticide are an underdocumented form of discrimination against the girl child and have significant repercussions on society as a whole, expressed in high rates of female infant mortality and distorted male-female sex ratios, and noting with concern the adverse social consequences of such practices, including trafficking in persons, and that some of those harmful practices, especially in rural areas, are linked to poverty and underdevelopment,

Welcoming the efforts of Governments to raise public awareness of those harmful practices and their efforts to establish policies, programmes and best practices to address this problem,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts of discrimination and violence against the girl child, including those forms of discrimination which result in harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, and expresses concern about the potentially devastating long-term impact of such practices on the demographic pattern;

2. *Calls upon* States to take measures to eliminate such harmful practices which discriminate against the girl child including steps to:

(a) Strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on harmful practices and provide support to efforts at both the national and subnational levels to end them;

(b) Integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of discrimination and violence against girls, in particular harmful practices, into education and training curricula, as appropriate;

(c) Develop programmes and policies that empower and support the role of family members, especially parents and other legal guardians, in protecting the health and well-being of girls and in ensuring that the intrinsic value of girls to their families and societies is recognized;

(d) Empower women, particularly girls living outside the protective structures of the family, girls living in conditions of poverty and girls with disabilities, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that provide equal access to quality education and social services;

3. *Invites* civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, to conduct public education and awareness campaigns to foster norms and traditions of zero tolerance for discriminatory attitudes of son preference that result in harmful manifestations, such as prenatal sex selection and female infanticide;

4. *Urges* States and the United Nations system to give increased attention to the need for systematic gender specific research and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data focusing on sex selective abortion and female infanticide, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating those forms of discrimination and violence;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session, to include specific information on actions the United Nations is taking to eliminate harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the subject.